INQUIRY SUPPORTS WARREN REPORT

CBS-TV Study Important

By RICK DU BROW

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — CBS-TV's examination of the Warren Commission report in four consecutive nightly broadcasts, the final one Wednesday night, was a rare and important experience in television journalism.

That the four-hour series would, in essence, support the official report on the assassination of President Kennedy was virtually a foregone conclusion.

IT THEREFORE took considerable courage and integrity to go ahead with a methodical, low-key, prime-time series that almost certainly would offer no new sensations in the common sense of the word.

Ratings potential aside, the network had, in a sense, little to gain except for the satisfaction of an important job well done. Inevitably there would be, and will be, those who ask why CBS-TV had to go to all that time and trouble to come out with virtually the same conclusions as the Warren Commission. For those who equate news only with huge headlines, there is no sense trying to explain.

As a contribution to the visual history of our time—regardless of whether critics of CBS-TV agree with its conclusions—the four broadcasts rank cumulatively among television's major documents.

THEY ARE, for the record, an enormously valuable tool and source of research for future historians who may someday unravel the mysteries that still linger about the assassination, and about the report itself.

For CBS-TV never claimed that the assassination did not and could not happen other than the way it was presented generally by the Warren Commission and the network. What CBS-TV did say, simply, is that despite the known doubts and loopholes and inconsistencies in the report, the critics of it have yet to produce enough hard evidence, hard proof, of their contentions.

IN SHORT, that rational men and women must accept a case that seems the most rational, until firmer alternative facts are produced.

Throughout CBS-TV's four hours, there was a respect for the intelligence of a mature audience. The series reflected a constant and innate sense of worldliness, perspective and plain decency.